

June 9, 2003

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Year of Clean Water - Lakes Awareness Month

FROM: G. Tracy Mehan, III /s/

TO: Regional Administrators
Deputy Regional Administrators
Regional Water Division Directors
Regional Water Communicators
Press Officers

EPA, in conjunction with the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) and others, is celebrating **Lakes Awareness Month** in July 2003! The surface area and number of lakes in North America far exceed those of any other continent. Lakes are one of our Nation's most valued natural resources. The public uses lakes for a variety of purposes including: water supply for municipal, industrial and agricultural use; recreation including boating, swimming, and fishing; flood control; and aesthetic enjoyment.

As EPA's National Water Program continues to celebrate the **30th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act**, we must focus on how we as individuals, businesses, and communities affect our lakes and surrounding watersheds. The attached materials show that choices we make can help keep America's waters clean.

In this packet, you will find:

“Open the Door to Clean Lakes,” a colorful door hanger with information on lake pollutants and tips to prevent pollution;

“Do Not Pick Up Hitchhikers!,” a flyer urging removal of aquatic plants and animals from boats;

“Dip into Volunteer Monitoring with the Great North American Secchi Dip-In,” a fact sheet describing the Great North American Secchi Dip-In;

“Clean Lakes and You,” a fish-shaped floating key chain with lake pollution prevention tips;

“Lakes Awareness Month Poster!,” a poster of the winning design from the NALMS poster context;

“Adopt Your Watershed,” a leaflet that explains how lake associations and other groups may join the Adopt Your Watershed program at: www.epa.gov/adopt;

“Shipshape Shores and Waters: A Handbook for Marina Operators and Recreational Boaters,” a user-friendly handbook describing best management practices for marina operators and recreational boaters to prevent water pollution;

A copy of an EPA Commentary called “Help Celebrate Lakes Awareness Month in July 2003” by myself published in the summer issue of NALMS *LakeLine* magazine;

PowerPoint Talking Points on “Clean Lakes and You;” and

An order form to order a number of these publications from the National Service Center for Environmental Publications and the Water Resources Center.

To see how EPA is celebrating the Clean Water Act all year long, please check out our Web site at: www.epa.gov/water/yearofcleanwater. For more information on Lakes Awareness Month, please contact Pam Grant, Special Assistant for Communications, EPA’s Office of Water at (202) 566-5777, or Anne Weinberg, Communications Coordinator, EPA’s Assessment and Watershed Protection Division at (202) 566-1217.

Attachments